

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 11 FEBRUARY 2019

RE: TAXI OWNER SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

The Limpopo High Court convicted Matjawela Jeffrey Moagi (37) from Sekororo with murder, attempted murder, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and theft.

Moagi was a Taxi owner and a member of Letaba Taxi Association. On the day of the incident, Moagi together with other taxi drivers went to Lorraine village to look for members of De Oaks Taxi Association. The two associations were fighting over the exclusive use of Tzaneen-Lorraine route.

Moagi led a convoy of 10 taxis. In the first incident, they met two complainants who were ferrying commuters and tried to block the road. The complainants managed to drive away to Maruleng satellite police station with the accused in hot pursuit.

The complainants left the taxi at the satellite police station and fled into the bush. Moagi and his group gave chase, caught up with them and began their onslaught leaving them unconscious.

In the second incident, the accused and his convoy proceeded to Mawetjie taxi rank where they chased members of De Oaks Taxi Association. During the skirmish the deceased, Moses Mtileni, a que marshal was caught and assaulted with stones and pick handle until he died.

On 28/1/2019, the accused pleaded not guilty and elected to remain silent. The state called several witnesses who testified that they identified the accused assaulting the men including the deceased. One of the witnesses testified that the accused stole his phone and R200 in cash. The witnesses told the court that they know the accused very well and stated that on the day of the incident, the accused was dressed in a Kaizer Chiefs T-shirt. They testified that he used a plastic pick handle to assault them and the deceased.

The court accepted the evidence of the state witnesses and found that the accused was properly identified. The court further rejected the version of the accused and convicted him on one count of murder, attempted murder, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and theft.

During sentencing the State Advocate, Calvin Chauke submitted that the accused had several previous convictions where he received suspended sentences; that the victims were subjected to severe grievous bodily harm and that those were all serious allegations. Further, he submitted that taxi related violence was rife and pleaded with the court to find that aggravating factors far outweighed mitigating factors.

The court accepted the state submissions and found that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances justifying the imposition of a lesser sentence and sentenced him to life imprisonment for the murder count; 10 years for attempted murder, 5 years for assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and 12 months imprisonment in respect of the theft count. The sentenced were ordered to run concurrently with the life sentence.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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